

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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S/S - MR. BRIDGES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 172897

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: FRENCH POSITION ON DATA

1. DURING MEETING WITH ANDREANI JULY 1, THE COUNSELOR SUGGESTED THAT THE WESTERN NEGOTIATORS IN VIENNA SIMPLY REFER TO THE DATA TABLED BY THE WEST IN 1973 IF PRESSED BY THE EAST IN DISCUSSIONS OF THE EAST'S RECENTLY TABLED DATA. ANDREANI UNDERTOOK TO RAISE THIS IN PARIS. DE LABOULAYE HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING REPLY.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE DECISION OF WHETHER OR NOT TO POSTPONE INFORMING EASTERN NEGOTIATORS OF DATA CONCERNING THE CURRENT SITUATION OF FORCES IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE ZONE CONCERNS ONLY THE STATES PARTY TO THE NEGOTIATION. WE WOULD

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NATURALLY SEE NO OBJECTION THERETO.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE WESTERN NEGOTIATORS WERE TO REPLY TO POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FROM THEIR EASTERN COUNTERPARTS BY REFERRING TO FIGURES TRANSMITTED TO THE LATTER IN 1973, IT WOULD GIVE RISE TO OBJECTIONS ON OUR PART. INDEED, THE ESTIMATES FURNISHED AT THE TIME BY OUR ALLIES INCLUDED THE FRENCH FORCES STATIONED IN GERMANY. THE DECISION FOR THIS INFORMATION, WHICH HAD BEEN ARRIVED AT WITHOUT OUR PARTICIPATION, TO BE COMMUNICATED TO VIENNA WAS, DESPITE ITS

POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE, APPROVED WITHOUT THE COUNCIL'S EXAMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN EXPEDITIOUS PROCEDURE. WE CANNOT GIVE OUR A POSTERIORI APPROVAL TO THIS INITIATIVE BY AGREEING THAT REFERENCE THERETO BE MADE IN THE VIENNA DISCUSSIONS, INASMUCH AS WE HAVE CONTINUALLY ASSERTED THROUGH OUR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL THAT WE ARE NOT CONCERNED EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BY THE MBFR NEGOTIATION OR BY ITS RESULTS. WE CANNOT EITHER EXPLICITLY OR IMPLICITLY GIVE OUR ENDORSEMENT TO THE TRANSMITTAL TO EASTERN COUNTRIES OF DATA CONCERNING FRENCH FORCES SINCE WE REFUSE FOR THEM TO BE THE SUBJECT OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATION. END TEXT.

4. THE TEXT OF THE REPLY SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO ROTH AND THOMSON. KISSINGER

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